

Today

A Fool in a Mortar.  
Look at Mohammed, Bryan.  
War Times and Murder.  
Better Times for J. P. M.

In the two middle front columns of the Post Colonel Roosevelt writes enough to discourage the mothers and fathers of a million soldiers, enough to make those soldiers go about their work in discouraged fashion.

Mr. Roosevelt must have his excitement. And such attacks may make him feel important. But they will not help him to crawl back into the quarters occupied by Woodrow Wilson.

If this Administration wins by courage, patience, and perseverance, as it will, the public will despise the man that criticized without helping.

And if the Administration should lose in the war, WHICH IS IMPOSSIBLE, the public would not feel any great affection for the heroic gentleman of San Juan Hill, the famous signer of the round robin, "Take us home, we're sick," the grand hero saved from destruction by colored troops.

Women are shoveling snow in New York streets—and that is news.

Not so far back it would have been news to hear that MEN were doing hard labor. The women did it all.

The world progresses, in spite of the fact that we still allow women to do with shovels and hard labor what machinery could do easily and cheaply.

After three years of struggle Canada decides to conscript fighters. It did not take the United States so long.

"Roars of prohibition applause for Bryan when he appeared on the floor of the House voting dry."

Very nice for the crew of the water wagon. But those roars will not be repeated in ship building yards, iron foundries, mills, and mines, where men do work that is harder than the manufacturing of round phrases and where ice-water does not satisfy.

The hypocritical House of Representatives yesterday, voting against its own convictions, has started something, including a race question that will call for careful handling.

It is one thing for hypocrites to obey fanatics, it is another thing to overcome the evil done by fanaticism and hypocrisy combined.

For the innocent accused of murder, war time seems a good time.

Mrs. De Santis shot her husband, but did so influenced by "maternal dementia," and the jury said, "Don't mention it."

Miss Varney was accused of murdering Mrs. Pauline Keyes, whose husband was a friend of Miss Varney. The jury said, "Go straight home to your folks." Miss Varney said, "everybody has been so kind to me," and burst into tears.

A rich widowed lady named King went out for a drive with Mr. Means, a gentleman who had seen a good deal of her. A bullet killed her, and the gentleman explained that she killed herself. Others said not so, and accused Mr. Means of murder. The jury said, "Merry Christmas, go home."

What he has left stored away in the Metropolitan Museum, Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan gives to the public in memory of his father. All cheer.

This is good news in two ways. What is left of the collection will be welcome.

And we learn, rejoicing, that with the Morgan family times are looking up.

Does Mr. Roosevelt think he is helping the United States or Germany when he writes in all the newspapers of the country:

"Our troops in France have received thousands of coffins, but an insufficient number of shoes."

There is little doubt that this country will be dry officially before long. Congress having set the example in hypocrisy, legislatures may be relied upon to follow suit. Certain "dry" Senators and Representatives will feel very sad without their whiskey—especially if patriotic newspaper men see to it that they don't get any whiskey, or publish the facts if they do get it.

It will be an interesting experiment, not entirely new.

Mohammed tried it on his followers—and look at them.

The Russians tried it in order, as they said, to make themselves "efficient in war," and look at them.

Bryan has always tried it—look at him, compare him and his brilliant success with Thomas Jefferson and his success.

Prohibitionists that do not like this will kindly lump it.

WEATHER:  
OVERCAST  
TONIGHT:  
SOMEWHAT  
WARMER

NUMBER 10,381.

## MUST QUIT IF RATE IS NOT RAISED, SAYS GAS CO.

Shipping Board and War Department Council Reorganizations Made to Speed Up America's War Progress.

By DAVID LAWRENCE.

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Reorganization and readjustments, the inevitable processes which every democracy has been compelled to set in motion periodically since the European war began, have become necessary in the war-making branches of the United States Government.

The shipping board and Emergency Fleet Corporation today makes its third change since the allies sent out their appeal for ships wherewith to circumvent the submarine. Secretary Baker announces the formation of a war council relieving in effect from active duty his quartermaster general, Henry G. Sharpe, and his chief of ordnance, William G. Crozier.

On this war council are to be placed the experienced military minds who have been engaged in detail, in writing letters and in administrative work that can be done as well, if not better, by younger men. The members of the council will occupy themselves in shaping military policies, in thinking out problems to which heretofore they have been forced to give scant attention.

Secretary Baker spent the forenoon at the White House with President Wilson. Colonel House and Major Gen. Tasker H. Bliss, chief of staff of the army, both just back from conferences in London and Paris with the best military minds of the entire world, were also present. They discussed reorganization and construction. Some of the changes, however, have been in process for many weeks. The war council idea was first broached confidentially to friends by the Secretary of War several weeks ago.

No Hasty Decision. It did not therefore come hastily as a result of the Congressional inquiries of the last week. Rather does it appear that Chairman Chamberlain, of Senate Committee on Military Affairs, who is very intimate with Secretary Baker, instituted the inquiry in order to control what might otherwise be an obstructive and unmanageable controversy, for members of Congress were in an irritable mood when they got back here a fortnight ago.

Without the publicity that has been given to certain matters in the army through the Congressional investigations now under way, it might have been embarrassing for the civilian members of the Administration to set the military house in order—such has been the confidence in the staff of officers of the army outside of Washington.

Investigation in the present instance is purging and the stimulus derived from it is already apparent in the quickening of those individuals who are so opinionated as to their own efficiency as to be super-sensitive about civilian encroachment on their peace-time prerogatives.

But while the War Department is surrounded by civilians, who are right and left into Navy methods of tape, and today Rear Admiral Harris has resigned in a huff because Chairman Hurley wouldn't let him spend \$12,000,000 for housing operations in connection with the shipyards and a removal of the Fleet Corporation's offices to Philadelphia, where it wouldn't be bothered by its rival, the Shipping Board.

Mr. Hurley said he would not consent to such momentous things without referring them to the board of trustees and Admiral Harris expressed the opinion that since his authority was so limited he could do better service elsewhere. The Board of Trustees concurred in this judgment and said that the projects which

(Continued on Page 2, Column 5.)

# The Washington Times

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## HOW WILL PEACE EVENTUALLY COME?

(Copyright, 1917, by John T. McCutcheon.)



WILL IT BE THIS WAY:

The Kaiser's death occurred on the imperial train while he was returning to Berlin from the western front. Immediately political events in Germany moved in a swift and bewildering succession. Enormous mass meetings of people throughout Germany passed resolutions of protest against Frederick William as his father's successor, on the ground that a continuation of Hohenzollern rule would make an early and much desired peace impossible. Violent rioting occurred in many parts of Germany and emphasized the deep opposition to the Crown Prince. The situation became so threatening in its possibilities to the nation that the state councilors recognized that two courses lay open to them—first, to accept Frederick William as the new Emperor with the inevitable revolution that would follow such a course, and, secondly, to send a formal request for immediate peace negotiations with the entente allies. The latter course was adopted, and the allies at once accepted the invitation upon the understanding that the Hohenzollern dynasty had definitely ceased to exist as a governing factor in the German empire. A general armistice was declared and peace followed soon afterward.



WILL IT BE THIS WAY:

Following the German successes of the fall and winter of 1917 the prospect of a military victory for Germany for a time seemed promising, and every effort was made by Hindenburg and Ludendorff to deliver a crushing and decisive defeat upon the British and French fronts before the full force of American arms could be brought to bear upon the situation. The paralysis of Russian and Roumanian pressure on the east front released vast armies, which hurried to the west front for the supreme effort. Three violent offensives were simultaneously begun in Flanders, in Champagne, and on the hitherto quiescent Ypres front. Upon each of these fronts considerable initial gains were made, but not enough to affect the whole front strategically. After the first gains the allied lines held and the great German thrust was definitely parried. The failure of this supreme German effort plunged the German soldiers and people into profound despair, and the hopelessness of achieving a final and definite military victory was at last realized by the rulers as well as the people of Germany. An important council of war was at once called, and under strong pressure from Bavaria and Saxony, as well as from Austria, the Kaiser and his military chiefs were compelled to abandon their desperate plans for a prolonged and suicidal resistance. The overthrow of the Kaiser's wishes was followed by his abdication, and the new council of state, composed of representatives from each of the different states of the empire, voted to accept a peace which acknowledged the definite defeat of the central powers. Peace negotiations were at once inaugurated, and the final peace terms conformed to the objects for which the allied powers had fought so long and desperately.



OR WILL IT BE THIS WAY:

The spring of 1918 found the two great opposing forces on the west front in a deadlock. Throughout the summer of that year the vast offensive of each contending force resulted in no decisive advantage, and it was not until the force of American arms appeared that the democracies began to show a preponderance of power against the German line. After months of preparation and many delays and mistakes before a superior war council had been adopted, the vast potential strength of the United States had been developed to the point where it definitely turned the scales in favor of the American and allied arm. Re-enforced by two millions of fresh troops and thousands of giant howitzers, the pressure against the German lines grew stronger and stronger as the man power of Germany grew weaker. The French and British armies, after three years of heroic fighting, were revitalized by the new forces from the States, and in a succession of staggering blows the German and Austrian lines were driven back to the line of the Meuse and on toward the Rhine. The morale of the Kaiser's troops was broken, whole divisions laid down their arms in defiant protest, and the great German military machine was wrecked and shattered. Violent riots occurred in Berlin and the Kaiser was obliged to flee in disguise. Hurried peace proposals followed and the final conclusion of peace was signed at The Hague.

ONCE HAT CHECKER, O'CONOR WILL BOSS BIGGEST HOSTELRY

BALTIMORE, Dec. 18.—On the humble diamondback terrapin and the high-flying canvas-back duck James P. A. O'Connor, a Baltimore man, has risen from hat checker to manager of the greatest hotel in the world—the proposed New Statler, to be opened in New York next year opposite Pennsylvania Station.

O'Connor, who has just been notified of his selection, states that he owes his rise to sticking to terrapin and duck.

It was in 1911, when the Democrats celebrated their return to power by a banquet here that O'Connor came into prominence. O'Connor had charge of the feast.

Senators and Congressmen were on hand and Champ Clark said of the banquet that it was the best for eating and the worst for speaking which he had ever attended.

Ellsworth M. Statler, head of the Statler hotels, heard of the feat and investigated. O'Connor was called to the management of the Statler, in Cleveland, and the new hotel made money under his direction.

SENATOR CUMMINS ASKS FOR INQUIRY ON U. S. RAILROADS

Senator Cummings, Iowa, today introduced a resolution for an investigation of the railroad problem.

GERMANS BLAST GOVERNOR'S HOME IN SACRAMENTO

SACRAMENTO, Cal., Dec. 18.—An attempt to dynamite the governor's mansion and kill Gov. William D. Stephens and his wife, was made early today, when a charge of explosives was set off in the southwest wall of the building.

Although Governor Stephens, his wife, and servants were asleep on the upper floor, nobody was injured. Pro-German agents or sympathizers are blamed by the police for the outrage. Governor Stephens returned last night from Los Angeles, where he had delivered an address in which he advocated stern methods in suppressing enemy agents and enemy propaganda.

\$58,433,355.02 IS ASKED FOR PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN D. C.

To house the Government activities in the District of Columbia, an outlay of \$58,433,355.02 is needed, according to a report of the Public Buildings Commission, created in the last sundry civil measure. The commission made its first report to Congress today.

Senator Martin, chairman of the Appropriations Committee, submitted the report to the Senate today. Chairman Sherman of the House Appropriations Committee, submitted it to the House. This was done after the full committee approved the report, which was prepared by Mr. Woods, Colonel Ridley, and Mr. Wetmore.

The report stated that in the last fifteen years Government employees in the District increased about 100 per cent. This has nothing to do with the heavy influx of employees since the war, which renders present estimate difficult.

The commission asked the District Commissioners to submit estimates for new buildings needed by the District Government, but the Commissioners did not think the District Government was included in the law creating the building commission. New executive department buildings should be located to face Lafayette square so as to complete arrangements already begun, and south of Pennsylvania avenue and along Fifteenth street to R.

Both sides of the Mall, with exception of space needed for the Department of Agriculture or its grounds, should be occupied by museum and kindred buildings.

U. S. WARSHIPS MAY PATROL NORTH SEA TO CURB RAIDERS

Sinking of Fourteen Boats by Germans Shows Greater Strength Is Required to Halt Daring Attacks.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—Demands for stronger patrols in the North sea to curb German raids led to an unconfirmed report today that American naval forces might re-enforce the British guard ships on duty in those waters.

The sinking of fourteen ships by the Germans, three of them in British waters off the mouth of Tyne river, show that the German navy is operating with impudent boldness and is now using large-sized cruisers as well as submarines in its warfare upon mercantile shipping.

Court of Inquiry. A naval court of inquiry has already begun an investigation of the sinking of the British cruiser Partridge, six merchantmen and four trawlers while plying between Scotland and Norway by four German destroyers. The British destroyer Pelaw, which was damaged by the Germans' shell fire in the same action, is now in a British port for repairs.

The Germans carried out this raid with their usual wanton cruelty and ships carrying women were shelled and sunk. The women were rescued by British destroyers which went to the rescue.

It is believed that a number of neutral sailors lost their lives, as five of the merchantmen were neutrals.

An official statement, sent out by (Continued on Page 2, Column 3.)

U. S. MEN ABROAD FULLY EQUIPPED, MCCORMICK SAYS

Unwilling to be delayed by the inability of Col. I. N. Lewis, machine gun inventor, to appear today, the Senate military probers today summoned Congressman Medill McCormick, Illinois, and resumed their investigations in executive session.

Henry Gatling, son of the late R. J. Gatling, inventor of the Gatling gun, also was summoned.

Congressman McCormick, who visited the European battlefields, described conditions at the front. He also was asked as to the equipment of American troops sent abroad and said that, with the exception of one body of Sammlies sent across, all were completely equipped, as far as he could learn. This contingent was without an adequate supply of overcoats, he said.

Gatling, who, with his father, was in close touch with the war machine of England, Germany, Italy and other European nations, showed by comparison, it is said, where the American war department was lacking, especially in ordnance.

Senator Chamberlain, chairman of the probe committee, again today voiced his opposition to executive sessions, which were decided upon by the committee.

"I think the public should have all facts," he declared.

The committee today definitely decided to continue its hearings through the holiday recess.

Kerensky at Head Of Army, Marching on The Capital, Report

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 18.—Former Premier Kerensky has appeared near Petrograd at the head of several thousand troops, according to a dispatch via Haparanda, printed today by the Berlingskifte.

INTIMIDATED, SAYS RYAN

Charges that intimidation of employees of the railway mail service is being practiced by officials of the Postoffice Department to prevent disclosure of conditions existing in this branch of the postal service were made before the House Postoffice subcommittee at the second day of the hearing on the salary increase question today by E. J. Ryan, president of the Railway Mail Association.

Mr. Ryan had just told the committee that many employees had been reduced in salary so they were now receiving less compensation than they did a few years ago, when he was asked by Congressman Cox of Indiana to supply the names of these men.

"I do not care to give any names," the witness replied.

"Haven't you got them?" asked Mr. Cox.

"Yes," was the reply, "but unless this committee has the power to grant these men immunity, I do not care to give them."

Practice Intimidation. Pressed for a reason, Mr. Ryan declared there is a system of intimidation being practiced by the department against railway mail employees that would cause them to lose their jobs if I mentioned their names before this committee, unless this committee has the power to protect them.

Mr. Ryan replied that no laws affecting the postal employees would do any good unless their right of appeal was recognized whereby a man could face his accuser. He said that under the present system the right of review is vested only in officials of the Postoffice Department, and that a postal employee now has no opportunity to present his case to an unbiased judge.

Three essentials to justice for the postal employees, which are lacking in no other organization employing so many men, they fail to have. They lack a definite standard of compensation, a definite standard of working hours, and the right to appeal.

Figures were given by Mr. Ryan that at least 50 per cent of the \$5,000,000 surplus of the postoffice department in 1916 was represented in unexpended salaries in the railway mail service. The committee wanted to know to what was ascribed the reorganization of the line and the reduction of the force in the mail service and for their testimony, we will submit facts that will astound the public. Neither members of Congress nor the public have a true conception of the conditions under which this class of postal employees work.

Congressman Cox made light of these charges. He said he thought it was hardly possible that the giving of postal names would work hardships on the men.

Causes Delay in Mail. "Lots of mail is being delayed," he said. "Army mail is being delayed, and let me say right here, gentlemen, that this matter of congested and delayed mail is an important one, directly bearing on the success of this war. Delayed mail affects seriously the production and manufacture of things essential in the prosecution of the war. It may be said that the lives of American soldiers depend on prompt dispatch of business mail."

"If this committee will grant hearing to these men, and will guarantee that they will not suffer for their testimony, we will submit facts that will astound the public. Neither members of Congress nor the public have a true conception of the conditions under which this class of postal employees work."

Congressman Cox made light of these charges. He said he thought it was hardly possible that the giving of postal names would work hardships on the men.

(Continued on Page 22, Column 7.)

SAYS LOSS AT PRESENT WILL BRING BANKRUPTCY

The Gas Company announces that unless it can get a higher rate it will be obliged to discontinue service to the people of this city.

On behalf of the people of Washington The Times announces that if the Gas Company should discontinue service, the Government would take the plant, pay a fair price for the physical assets—the franchise having been abandoned.

The Government then, at a profit, would supply gas at a price below the present price and set an excellent example to the country in Government ownership.

That the Washington Gas Light Company will be obliged to discontinue operations unless they are allowed to raise their rates was declared by representatives of the company at the public hearing before the Commissioners today on the question of the proposed increase in rates from the present rate of 75 cents to \$1.10 per 1,000 cubic feet.

"We are not trying to raise extra revenue at the expense of the public," said B. S. Miner, one of the attorneys of the company.

"Regardless of your finding as to the rate of return has got to be increased or we cannot continue to operate the plant. That is all there is about it."

Explain Rate Need. J. J. Darlington and Miner, for the Washington Gas Light Company, explained before the utilities officials, Corporation Counsel Syme, representatives of civic bodies, and a group of citizens why the company had asked for increased rates.

The principal point at issue was the determination of the proper valuation of the property of the company. Upon this point rested the determination of a proper rate of return for the company. Upon this, in turn, rests the proper price that should be charged for gas in Washington. The Commissioners had estimated the valuation of the property of the company at about \$9,000,000. The company estimated its property was worth over \$15,000,000.

Therefore, according to the Commission's valuation, the rate asked by the company would give the return of something over 11 per cent on the money invested; while, according to the company's valuation of its property, the return with the increased rate would be only a little over 7 per cent.

Been Losing All Year. It was stated by representatives of the company that, under the rates that had prevailed for the last year, the company had been losing 6 cents on each 1,000 cubic feet of gas sold. They contended that the average rate they had been charging was 73 1/2 cents per 1,000 cubic feet, this figure being an average of the 75 cent rate charged the public and the 70 cent rate charged the Government. They declared that the cost of 1,000 cubic feet of gas at the burner was to the company 73 1/2 cents.

The said that the cost of oil and labor and other things had increased so much that they were unable to furnish gas any longer at the prevailing price. It was said that the company was required to produce nearly 3,000,000 cubic feet of gas now in excess of the amount that they had been called upon to produce one year ago. Mr. Miner stated that their valuation of the company would give them a return upon their books, and that their valuation had been approved by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Company's Witnesses. The witnesses for the gas company were C. R. Cramer and Robert Luqueer, two gas engineer experts who had assisted in the compilation of the data that had been submitted to the Commissioners in support of the company's claims.

Representatives of civic organizations who were present reserved their opinions for a future hearing. Additional data was supplied the

YESTERDAY  
The Washington Times  
GAINED

7,163 Lines of Advertising (26 cols.)  
Over the Corresponding Day (Dec. 18) Last Year.

EDGAR D. SHAW,  
Publisher.